

Proactive Release

Date: 21 February 2020

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minute have been proactively released by the Minister for Trade and Export Growth:

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon David Parker

(CAB-19-MIN-0683 refers)

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction codes:

- 9(2)(f)(iv): the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon David Parker

Portfolio **Trade and Export Growth**

On 16 December 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon David Parker from New Zealand, from 21 to 26 January 2020 to travel to:
 - 1.1 Singapore to announce the substantive conclusion of the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement negotiations;
 - 1.2 Davos, Switzerland to attend an informal meeting of World Trade Organisation Ministers, take part in the World Economic Forum's Trade and Investment Stewards' meeting, and hold bilateral discussions;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to s9(2)(f) (fo) the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that he will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by the department;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Andrew Little act as Attorney-General;
 - 5.2 Hon Damien O'Connor act as Minister for Trade and Export Growth;
 - 5.3 Hon Nanaia Mahuta act as Minister for the Environment;
- 6 **noted** that the House is not sitting during his absence.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Hon David Parker

Office of the Minister for Trade and Export Growth

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon David Parker

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Singapore and Switzerland from 21-26 January 2020.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 I propose to travel to Singapore to announce substantive conclusion of the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA) negotiations alongside the Singaporean and Chilean Ministers of Trade, with whom I launched the negotiations on 16 May 2019. The DEPA offers an opportunity to create a “living agreement” to accommodate development in digital technology and creates rules and best practice that reflect more directly the needs and concerns of New Zealanders. As I reflected in my update to Cabinet colleagues on 2 December, negotiations have progressed sufficiently and I now intend to announce substantive conclusion in Singapore on 21 January.
- 4 The primary purpose of my travel to Davos is to attend an informal meeting of World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministers hosted by Switzerland. This annual Swiss-hosted event will be a crucial engagement in the lead up to the World Trade Organisation Twelfth Ministerial Conference (MC12) in June 2020. At this meeting, I hope to advance New Zealand’s interests in advancing the necessary reform of the WTO and ensuring that the WTO remains a credible and effective body. To this end, I hope to also participate in an anticipated engagement with the Ottawa Group of Ministers on WTO reform.
- 5 I also propose to take part in the World Economic Forum’s (WEF) Trade and Investment Stewards’ meeting, given that I have accepted a role as a WEF Trade and Investment Steward for 2019. This will also provide me with an opportunity to attend the trade-focused events at the WEF.
- 6 As I indicated above, my programme would involve my participation at the Swiss-hosted WTO Mini-Ministerial and World Economic Forum sessions, particularly the Trade and Investment Stewardship Board. I would also look to meet with the Cairns Group of agricultural exporting countries, the Ottawa Group of Ministers, and bilaterally with some of my counterparts.

Ministerial Party

- 7 I will be accompanied by one staff member as part of the Ministerial Delegation. Senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will also accompany me; their travel costs will be covered by the departmental budget.

Travel Costs

- 8 The estimated costs of my travel to Singapore and Switzerland are:

Flights	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Accommodation	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Per Diem	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Facilitation	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Subtotal	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Contingency 10%	s9(2)(f)(iv)
TOTAL	s9(2)(f)(iv)

Acting Ministers

- 9 In my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:

Attorney-General: Hon Andrew Little;

Trade and Export Growth: Hon Damien O'Connor;

Environment: Hon Nanaia Mahuta.

Proactive release

- 10 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4, on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

- 11 I recommend that Cabinet:

11.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand from 21 January to 26 January to travel to Singapore and Davos, Switzerland;

11.2 agree that I be accompanied by one staff member;

- 11.3 approve the estimated expenditure of s9(2)(f)(i) for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- 11.4 note that I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by the department;
- 12 agree that Hon. Andrew Little (Attorney-General); Hon Damien O'Connor (Trade and Export Growth) and Hon Nanaia Mahuta (Environment) will be Acting Ministers in my absence;
- 13 note that the House is not sitting during my absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon David Parker

Minister for Trade and Export Growth